GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4063
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2005
LEVY OF TOLL TAX
Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued a notification in 1997 for the levy of toll tax on bridges,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal submitted by the Government of Bihar to the Union Government on 25th February, 1999 for fixing the rates of toll tax to be charged on Mahatma Gandhi Bridge on river Ganga in Hajipur-Patna Section of National Highway No. 19 is still pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether the amount collected from toll tax has crossed more than one and a half times of the amount of Rs.87 crores spent on the construction of the said bridge;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to stop the levying of toll tax on the said bridge; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) The Government, in the year 1997, notified the following Rules for regulating collection of users` fee on the use of National Highway Sections and permanent bridges on National Highways.

(i) The National Highways (collection of fees by any person for the use of section of National Highways / permanent bridge/temporary bridge on National Highways) Rules, 1997.The Rules empower the Central Government to permit any person to collect and retain the users` fee at an agreed rate in respect of projects funded by such person.

(ii) The National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge - Public Funded ProjectRules 1997). The Rules prescribe the general conditions, modes of collection and deposit of the users` fee collected on Public Funded Projects including Bridges; The Rules also empower the Government to collect the Users` fee in perpetuity. (iii) The National Highways (Rate of Fee) Rules, 1997. The Rules prescribe that the rate of Users` fee to be levied on bridges shall be determined and notified having regard to the expenditure involved in the construction, maintenance and management operation of the bridges.

(c) Proposal submitted by Government of Bihar in 1999 to Union Government for fixing the rates of toll tax was found deficient. The notification specifying the rates of fees to be recovered from the users of the bridge was issued on 27th September, 2005.
(d) to (f) The toll collected on this bridge upto September 2005 is Rs.103.18 crores which is more than the cost ofthe bridge of Rs.87.22 crores. However, the toll has to be collected in perpetuity as per the above rules.